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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,570	07/23/2001	David Kenneth Blanchard	52646-00306USPT	6110

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FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
P.O. BOX 1022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022

EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,570

Applicant(s)

BLANCHARD, DAVID KENNETH

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/15/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For example, in Claim 1, lines 12 and 13, it is unclear what is meant by the term "incompatible with one or more native operations of the in-store controller" since the term "incompatible" is a relative term.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, 17-22, 24-29, 31, 33-35, 37-42, 44, 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolls (US 6,643,623 B1) in view of Meier. Kolls discloses Applicant's claimed system as follows.

As described in Claims 1, 14, 17, 33 and 47;

- a. an in-store controller (614) for processing at least one message relating to a retail refueling environment (see col. 25, lines 17-31) as well as fig 3H and Kolls' Claim 1);
- b. a server module (632), connected to the in-store controller, comprising at least one of a transmitter and a receiver (558);
- c. at least one client module (630B) comprising at least one of a transmitter and a receiver (606A and B);
- d. at least one service device (628) or peripheral device (646), connected to the at least one client module, for processing the at least one message (see col. 18, lines 4-16);
- e. a wireless communication link for communicating the at least one message between the at least one of a transmitter and a receiver in the server module and the at least one of a transmitter and a receiver in the at least one client module **operable to receive and wirelessly transmit the at least one message to at least one client module** (note again, for example, transceivers (606A and B));
- f. the at least one message is formatted according to a protocol link layer for transmission of at least one data packet, the at least one data

packet comprising wired connection protocol information for a retail refueling environment;

(See col. 18, lines 4-16 and lines 29-48, noting that TCP/IP necessarily works by using protocols to allow data communications across networks connecting various devices such as servers, PC's or handheld wireless devices.)

Note that Koll's system is configured to authorize fueling transactions. See col. 2, line 55-col. 3, line 26, which discusses Koll's system being used within a fuel vending environment with various equipment such as PDA's, laptops, cell phones, etc by wireless messages.

Note also that the at least one client module at the retail refueling facility comprises at least one wireless transmitter and receiver (by VSAT satellite communication or other wired or wireless means, for example—see col. 19, lines 54-64) and is able to interface the in-store controller with at least one service device (note that service device can be construed to be a card reader, service center, remote computer, etc.—see col. 19, lines 53-65, for example), wherein the at least one service device is able to provide services to the retail refueling environment in response to the at least one message;

Note that the credit bureau provides services such as credit checks in communication with the card reader at the retail refueling POS, such as a gas pump, which sends polling messages between the card reader and the credit bureau remote server.

Note that the transmitter or receiver automatically configures at least one service device for interfacing the in-store controller, note that figure 12 describes a "self-configuring routine (1000). See also col. 29, line 51-col. 30, line 26. Note that Kolls' system is able to perform a self-configuring routine. It would have been obvious for one ordinarily skilled in the art to have used such a self-configuring routine as Kolls suggests the interoperability of the various components of the system, such as in-store controller (614), server module (632), receiver (558), client module (630B), service device (628) or peripheral device (646) at col. 15, lines 19-31, which describes "implementing a plurality of systems (500) networked together with PC (630)..." It also states that "any number of servers, POS systems, PMS/MIS systems and remote locations can be controlled by way of network (600). This passage also at least implies that the various devices, although generally incompatible, are able to be communicate using standard protocols and dynamic addressing routines such as plug and play. Otherwise, Kolls' system would not operate as described.

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Regarding the claim language, for example, in Claim 1 concerning "incompatibility with one or more native operations of the in-store controller" Note that all devices are incompatible with the host device until appropriate addresses are assigned to the device.

Regarding the claim language concerning the in-store device comprising a third party device, note that this is construed as arbitrary to the operation of the system, since whether the device is made by the same entity or not does not cause the system to operate differently.

Kolls does not expressly disclose, but Meier discloses the use of a first wireless link (13, 15 or 17) and a second wireless link (19) to handle transmission of a message between components of the computer system.

Both Kolls and Meier are analogous art because Kolls refers to the use of wireless systems as an alternative to other hardwired systems, and Meier concerns use of a wireless RF network.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used a wireless RF network having various base stations (19 or 21), which act as a second wireless link with a first wireless link, such as wireless terminals (13, 15 or 17), so as to communicate data and messages through the system. See figures 1, 9 or 10, for example.

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The suggestion/motivation would have been to ensure proper network coverage of an area without adding extra cable or wire. See Meier, col. 33, lines 10-33 and col. 34, lines 1-27.

Note also that Kolls discloses using wireless systems as an alternative to hardwired systems. See, for example, Kolls, col. 13, lines 45-67 and col. 14, lines 1-6, col. 16, lines 13-35, col. 18, lines 4-16 and 29-48 and col. 19, lines 1-7, for example.

Kolls further discloses the following.

As described in Claims 2 and 18;

- f. the processing further comprises generating the at least one message (see col. 18, lines 4-16);

As described in Claims 3 and 19;

- g. the processing further comprises extracting the at least one message (see col. 18, lines 4-16);

As described in Claims 4, 20 and 34;

- h. a serial interface for connecting the in-store controller to the server module (see col. 13, lines 45-47);

As described in Claims 5, 21 and 35;

- i. a serial interface for connecting each of the at least one client module to a corresponding one of the at least one service device (see col. 13, lines 45-47);

As described in Claim 7;

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j. the service device comprises a tank gauge monitor (see col. 4, lines 23-26, noting that tank level monitoring is a maintenance function necessary for the operation of the dispensing of the product of the gas dispenser);

As described in Claim 9;

k. the at least one service device comprises a leak detection system (see col. 4, lines 23-26, noting that leak detection monitoring is a maintenance function necessary for the operation of the dispensing of the product of the gas dispenser);

As described in Claim 10;

l. the at least one message comprises leak detection information (see col. 4, lines 23-26, noting that leak detection monitoring is a maintenance function necessary for the operation of the dispensing of the product of the gas dispenser);

As described in Claim 11;

m. the at least one message comprises customer transaction information (see fig. 13, elements (1110 and 1112));

As described in Claims 12, 22, 37 and 48;

n. the at least one message is formatted according to a protocol link layer for transmission of at least one data packet, the at least one data packet comprising wired connection protocol information for a retail refueling environment (see col. 18, lines 4-16 and lines 29-48, noting that

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TCP/IP necessarily works by using protocols to allow data communications across networks connecting various devices such as servers, PC's or handheld wireless devices);

As described in Claim 13;

o. the at least one service device comprises at least one of a car wash controller, a satellite digital interface unit (see abstract), and a price board controller;

As described in Claim 14;

p. an indoor payment terminal (638, for example) for processing at least one message relating to a retail fueling environment;

As described in Claims 15 and 40;

q. the at least one peripheral device comprises at least one of a customer display (500), a pin-pad, a journal printer, a receipt printer, a keyboard, an input mouse, a touchscreen, a barcode scanner, a cash drawer, a check approval interface, a surveillance camera, and a money order machine (see figure 6a);

r. the peripheral device is at least one of a smartcard reader (638) and an automated refueling robot controller;

As described in Claims 24, 25 or 38;

s. the POS network controller (614 or 630) or dispenser controller (640) or forecourt controller device comprises a customer access terminal (CAT) network controller (650);

As described in Claims 26 and 39;

- t. at least one user interface device (182) communicating with the CAT controller board via a wireless interface;

As described in Claim 27;

- u. the POS network controller comprises a pump network controller (again, see figure 3H) ;

As described in Claims 28 and 41;

- v. the forecourt controller device comprises a pump controller (see figure 3H);

As described in Claims 29 and 42;

- w. at least one fuel dispensing component communicating with the pump computer via a wireless interface (see abstract and figure 3H);

As described in Claims 31 and 44;

- x. a dispenser control board (DCB) (640);

6. Claims 6, 8, 16, 23, 30, 32, 36, 43, 45, 46 and 49-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolls in view of Meier and further in view of Dickson (US 6,574,603 B1). Kolls discloses the system described above. Kolls further discloses the following.

As described in Claim 49;

y. the at least one message is further formatted to include a source address field identifying the address of a transmitter module that performs the step of transmitting (note that this is what TCP/IP protocol is, as mentioned throughout Kolls, specifically at col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 50;

z. the at least one message is further formatted to include a destination address field identifying the address of a receiver module that performs the step of receiving (see col. col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 51;

aa. the at least one message is further formatted to include a message command field, the message command field indicating at least one of an attachment of a data packet, an acknowledgement/non-acknowledgement response, an in-range inquiry, and an in-range response (see col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 52;

ab. the at least one message is further formatted to include at least one of a message sequence number field, and a message length field indicating a total length of the at least one message (col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 53;

ac. the at least one message is further formatted to include at least one of a start-of-text field, an end of text field, and a cyclical redundancy field check (note that this would be expedient for one ordinarily skilled in the art

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to include in an email system, which handles text message creation and communication);

As described in Claim 54;

ad. the at least one data packet comprises customer transaction information (col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 55;

ae. the at least one data packet comprises a pump control information (col. 18, lines 4-49);

As described in Claim 56;

af. the at least one data packet comprises a customer identification information (col. 18, lines 4-49);

Kolls et al does not expressly disclose, but Dickenson et al discloses the following.

As described in Claim 8;

ag. the at least one message comprises refueling tank level information (see Dickson et al, US 6,574,603 B1), col. 11, lines 44-50;

As described in Claims 6, 16, 23 and 36;

ah. wherein the wireless communication link (see figure 4D and Claim 1 of Dickson, for example, which mentions wireless communications) comprises a spread spectrum communication link (note that spread

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spectrum is considered a functional equivalent to blue tooth, cell phone network, etc., as these are standard wireless systems);

As described in Claims 30, 32 and 45;

ai. the POS network controller comprises a radio frequency identification system (RFID) controller (see col. 8, lines 38-45);

As described in Claim 43;

aj. the fuel dispensing component comprises at least one of a price/volume display (96), a stop button, an emergency stop button, a select-to-start button (102), a push-to-start button (102), a nozzle boot microswitch, a valve, a vapor recovery system, and an automatic refueling robot (see col. 11, lines 44-50);

As described in Claim 46;

ak. the customer identification device comprises at least one of a bezel reader, a card reader (92), a smart card transceiver, a tag transceiver (see col. 8, lines 38-45), a nozzle antenna reader, a handheld reader, and a vehicle on board system;

Both Kolls and Dickson et al are considered analogous art since they concern use of the internet for networking of fuel dispensers in a vehicle fueling environment.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have provided the refueling tank level means, wireless communication

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link, RFID controller, price/volume display (for example), or tag transceiver of Dickson et al to the system of Kolls.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide a secure and efficient means of interface with customers. See abstracts of Dickson et al and Kolls.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as described in Claims 6, 8, 16, 23, 30, 32, 36, 43, 45, 46 and 49-56.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 5/15/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Applicant's claims do not read on Kolls and Meier.

As discussed previously, Kolls discloses wirelessly connecting various devices such as PDA's, cell phones, laptops, etc. with a main transaction system in a fueling environment. These wireless devices have to be assigned addresses appropriate to enable them to communicate with the system. Without such addresses, these devices can not function within Kolls' network, as described in Kolls' disclosure. Either the host system must have an address allowing the device to access it or the device must have an address allowing it to access the host.

Kolls also mentions at several passages the use of messages of all types passing between devices attached to the network. This includes "e-business" messages, which are construed to include transaction information.

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Meier is used for its teaching regarding the use of a first wireless link (13, 15 or 17) and a second wireless link (19) to handle transmission of a message between components of the computer system.

Dickenson is used for its teaching of the use of refueling tank level means, wireless communication links, RFID controllers, price/volume displays (for example), and tag transceivers.

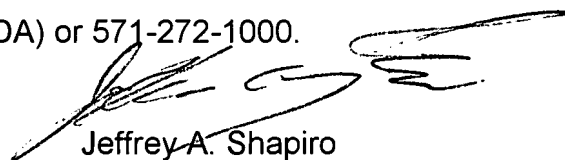
As Applicant's claims are still considered to read on the combination of Kolls, Meier and Dickenson, delineated above, the rejection of claims 1-56 is maintained.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

July 23, 2007